Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Observers: 'No Doubt' 4-Way Talks 'Intense'

FL2508181388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Today the fifth round of negotiations on southwest Africa resumed at the Palace of Congresses in Brazzaville, capital of the People's Republic of the Congo. So far, the delegations have kept their promise to remain silent on the proceedings. The representatives of Angola and Cuba, who form a joint delegation, and those of South Africa and the United States entered the building in downtown Brazzaville shortly after 1000 local time. However, they evaded questions from reporters who asked about this stage of the quadripartite conference.

Meanwhile, the African press continued coverage of this round, but only of topics connected with the bilateral contacts of visiting officials with Congolese leaders. The local television channel carried a news item showing the interior of the meeting hall. Moreover, this morning the Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who is also member of the Congolese Labor Party Central Committee Politburo, hosted a reception at the Olympic Palace Hotel.

Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state of the United States, which is mediating in the talks, gave a brief interview to Congolese television last night in which he limited himself to describing aspects of previous rounds.

The fifth round should end tomorrow, Friday, according to the schedule previously announced. However, the negotiations in Geneva, where the preceding round was held, took 24 hours longer than expected. Despite the total lack of information to the public, there is no doubt among observers that the sessions are intense and that complex matters are being discussed.

Work Group Analyzes Cadre Policy, Training

FL2308204288 [Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 23 August carries its "Open Agenda" program, during which cadre policies are discussed.

Program host journalist Pedro Rojas reports that the guests who will participate in the discussion are Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and chief of the work group on cadre policy; Guido Urrutia, member of the work group on cadre policy; Ana Maria Quesada, director of industrial container enterprises of the Light Industry Ministry; Juan Manuel Rodriguez, director of the specialized construction and assembly enterprise of the Construction Ministry, and Arlin Rodriguez, JUVENTUD REBELDE journalist.

Casas Regueiro notes that Cuban cadres developed in stages. He says that the original cadres were comprised of those people who participated in the assault on the Moncada Barracks and that the groundwork for cadre policies was established during the first PCC Congress and ratified at the second congress. Casas Regueiro points out that much emphasis was placed on administration. "Our cadre policies were adapted to the specific circumstances of the times," he says. "They are very Cuban and the policies have been very fair," adds Casas Regueiro. He notes that there have been some deficiencies in cadre policies. He does not elaborate on this topic.

Rojas points out that not every person is a cadre. Urrutia says that the cadre concept was not defined during the first congress; this was later established by decree. "In general, cadres consist of those comrades who fall under the occupational category of leaders at a certain level," he says. He notes that the terminology "in general" has caused some problems because this has made it possible for those people who are not in leadership positions to be considered cadres. The work group on cadre policy has proposed that cadres be defined more clearly and that they be comprised only of those people who are work leaders, he says. It has also been recommended that the current responsibilities of leaders be reviewed to prevent having cadres who are not top-ranking work officials.

Casas Regueiro points out that it was expected 230,000 people would be cadres, but since people who were not leaders were being placed in this category, this raised the number of cadres to nearly 500,000, which is too large to work with.

Rojas points out the problem of cadres that are substituted because of work deficiencies. In some cases, he says, they are given a position with more responsibilities, while other times the cadres are demoted. Urrutia responds that when a cadre makes an error or has some kind of deficiency, he may be demoted as a disciplinary measure and he cannot be promoted for a certain period of time. If someone has been sanctioned or demoted and he is placed in a position of greater responsibility, then the cadre policy is not being accurately applied, says Urrutia. He also adds that this practice rarely occurs now because measures have been taken against this. A cadre can be removed from his position and placed in a position of lesser responsibility for committing an error or for not being efficient, but they are not always replaced because of deficiencies, he says. There may be another cadre that is better suited for the position, says Urrutia. "We have to begin to feel that replacing a cadre is not unusual and that there is no reason to reject this action because it doesn't mean the cadre has done something wrong," he adds.

When asked about the "antichief," "anticadre" attitudes that prevail in some sectors, Casas Regueiro says the main factor that has contributed to this is the very general nature of the concept. "When we talk about cadres, we don't say: The director of a certain enterprise has these problems. We say the cadre chiefs, the organization chiefs, have this problem. This generalization has helped create this attitude."

In reference to training cadres, Urrutia says that university graduates should create a reserve force where they can be trained as cadres. Many times the graduate is placed in a cadre position but he does not have the training and is unable to fulfill his responsibilities, he says.

The 50-minute program ends with recorded remarks made by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the PCC Plenum in Guanabacoa in 1987. Castro stresses the importance of directors knowing everything about their workers. He stresses that this "attention to man" is very important for morale.

Minint Special Operations Directorate Honored

FL2508153588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The 23 August banner conferred by the Cuban Women's Federation [FMC] has been presented to the Special Operations General Directorate of the Interior Ministry [Minint] on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The high honor was presented by Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the FMC, to Brigadier General Alejandro Ronda Marrero, chief of the special operations troops. She also bestowed the 23 August medal on a group of chiefs and officers of the directorate.

Expressing his gratitude for the high distinction, Brig Gen Ronda Marrero said:

[Begin Ronda Marrero recording] As we receive today the tribute paid by Cuban women, we note the recognition and admiration of all the combatants of the Special Operations General Directorate toward the women's organization, which has a place of honor in the history of our tenacious people. [end recording]

Vilma Espin received a token of appreciation on the occasion of the FMC's 28th anniversary.

Briefs

Hotel Agreement With Peru

Peru will supply Cuba with engineering services and equipment for hotel construction amounting to $10 million. The contract was signed in Lima yesterday. [Text] [*FL2508134588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Aug 88*]

Bahamas

Official Opposition in 'Financial Trouble'

FL2508185388 Bridgetown CANA in English 1830 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Bahamas, Aug 25, CANA—The Free National Movement [FNM], the official opposition in the Bahamas, has been asking supporters to bail it out of financial trouble.

"We don't have any money...we're limping along...(but) we're hoping to change that," party treasurer, Tennyson Wells, told the press yesterday this week [as received]. Wells said the FNM plans "a massive fund-raising drive."

Party members said it was indebted to a source they refuse to name.

The party is offering gold, silver and bronze membership cards to members who make monthly contributions to the party over one-, two- or three-year periods. However, party spokesmen said, no person would be expected to contribute "one cent more" than he or she could afford.

The FNM's announcement of financial trouble follows a 1987 election campaign in which the party reportedly spent heavily.

Haiti

PUND Leader on Objectives, PDCH Relations

FL2508162188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday Wisler Pierre-Louis, former spokesman for the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party] who is now the president of the brand-new political party called the Party of National Unity for Development [PUND], held a news conference at the Holiday Inn Le Plaza Hotel.

Pierre-Louis defined the PUND as a party that is going to struggle to realize national unity to further democracy in Haiti. He stated that the party's objectives are, one, to realize national unity in Haiti to establish democracy; two, to work for the development of Haiti; and, three, to struggle to come to power after the first two points have been achieved.

In answer to journalists' questions as to whether he was at odds with the PDCH, Mr Pierre-Louis answered that there were no serious problems—that they had separated over a matter of form and that the new party's doctrine was almost the same as the PDCH's.

1st Anniversary of Freycinau 'Ambush' Marked

FL2408211788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon a good number of Christians and friends of the priests who were attacked in Freycinau gathered at the St Jean Bosco chapel to thank God for saving the lives of the four priests, the clergymen, and the committed laymen who were attacked in an ambush in Freycinau exactly 1 year ago, on 23 August 1987. We will listen to an excerpt of the reportage on this ceremony. [passage omitted]

The participants prayed with much conviction to make it known that they believe in the God of life, that they are fighting for life. They are not afraid of the murderers, even though today the murderers have the power of weapons in their hands. [passage omitted]

Together with Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, who presided over the ceremony, the faithful sought to comprehend who is blind today and is going to see, and who sees today and is going to be blind. They said that today Jesus would have said the same thing about Misyon Alfa, that they do not want to fool themselves, to lie to themselves. That is why they support everyone who is searching, who is telling the truth the way it really is. We are going to hear a short excerpt of what Father Jean Bertrand Aristide said in the sermon.

[Begin Aristide recording] There are bishops who are seated at the table and bishops who are under the table; priests seated at the table and priests under the table [audience chants along with Father Aristide]; nuns seated at the table and nuns under the table. And what about the laymen, who constitute the majority in the church? Are there laymen at the table too? [audience responds: "Yes"] And are there laymen under the table? [audience responds: "Yes"] Those seated at the table, in what social class do we find them? [response indistinct] We find the majority of them in the class people call the bourgeoisie.

But how about the Army? Are the majority of the military seated at the table or under the table? [response indistinct] Most of the military were born under the table but they were turned into (?flunkies), so they could become (?dependent flunkies) of... [pauses for response, which is indistinct]

In the same way, we are seeking this afternoon, inside the church, under the light of truth, to become flunkies of Jesus, of Jesus' truth. This truth does not lie to itself. It seeks to bathe itself in the truth that is connected with that gospel wherein Jesus says: I came to earth for judgment. And Jesus stood before the (?Pharisees) and said: That class of people seated at the table—he would perhaps today have employed the term, those people—those people seated at the table think they see. [play on words, first with "la classe" and then "moun sa yo," used by the Haitian bourgeoisie to describe themselves and by others to disparage the Haitian bourgeoisie] They say it is they who see. It is because they think it is they who can see; they think they can issue watchwords to us whenever they like. They can send us out to vote in elections.... [fades out, end recording]

At the end of the mass, a youth delivered a message in which they recalled past attacks on the church during the Duvalier regime. Several priests from religious and lay communities were exiled as a result. The same thing is happening again today. The same thing is continuing. The young people want this to change, and that is what they are fighting for.

[Begin speaker recording] Exactly 1 year ago today, the macoutes tried to destroy four priests and one committed layman from the people's church, the church of the poor. This day, 23 August, also calls to mind the blows the church is receiving from the macoutes. We are not forgetting that these acts have their roots in history, because from 1957 to 1969, during just 10 [as heard] years, the bloodthirsty Duvalier government booted out at least 3 bishops and more than 15 priests—all the Jesuits and the Holy Ghost Fathers—and shut down the big seminary, (?to say nothing of) the laymen without voices who were trampled upon and mistreated [words indistinct].

These same acts are continuing today. It is not by chance that we see that they no longer ever talk about organizing a convention for youths. Misyon Alfa has been dismantled. The people's churches cannot function because of persecution. Peasants have been massacred in Jean-Rabel, (Danty), Verrettes, Papaye, and so forth. Young Christians have been crushed in Marchand, Petite Riviere, Labadie, Grand Goave, and so forth. They pressure priests, deport them, threaten them. A recent example is the case of Father Poirier in Grand Goave. And this is to say nothing of all the other destructive acts committed against the houses, schools, and radio stations of God's people. But none of these things discourage Christians, and we young Christians in the people's church, the church of the poor, should not be discouraged, either. [passage omitted]

This day, which we could call a day of persecution of God's people, helps us to remember more clearly our mission as young Christians, which (?is stated) as follows in Matthew 11, verse 12: It is the people who know how to fight who will enter the kingdom of Heaven. Yes! It is a day that invites all young Christians in all parishes, especially in this archdiocese, to come together and trace the veve [design on the ground during certain voodoo ceremonies] of solidarity, which is also the veve of liberation. No question of hanging back. No question of saying: I'm not a part of it. When the train of repression passes, it is not going to distinguish between those involved and those not involved. [end recording]

To commemorate this 1st anniversary, they have put out a document that contains newspaper articles and notes of solidarity in connection with the events that have marked the life of the church of the poor in Haiti for the past 2 years. The document is entitled [words indistinct] and it is on sale in several bookstores in the capital. [passage omitted]

Chamber Electoral College in Permanent Session

FL2408155588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0447 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Aug, (NOTIMEX)—The Chamber of Deputies' Electoral College has agreed to meet in permanent session to speed up the certification process of the federal elections held on 6 July and to complete the elections' analyses during the established period of time.

Through a proposal signed by six of the seven political organizations which compose the Electoral College—only the Mexican Socialist Party, PMS, abstained from signing the document—it was agreed, among other things, that files regarding the certifications to be discussed will be placed on the podium and will be available for review by the plenum, secretaries, and scheduled speakers.

The factions of PAN [National Action Party], PRI, the PFCRN [Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction], the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution], and the democratic current reached an agreement on the proposal at 0820 after a 6 hour-15 minute recess.

Through the document, signed by the majority which compose the Electoral College, loss of time is avoided by not having to go through roll call and having to read the previous session's minutes, which usually takes between 2 and 3 hours a day.

The agreement reached by the parliamentary factions consists of eight points.

1. The Electoral College, in order to compose the 54th legislature of the Chamber of Deputies, will meet in permanent session so that everything regarding the 6 July elections will be dealt with.

2. In order to speed up the discussions and be more efficient in writing the certifications, six points were proposed.

A. Two speakers in favor and two against will be able to register for each certification open for discussion.

B. Each speaker should try not to speak for over 15 minutes.

C. It will be assumed that the members of the certifying commissions will be present at the college's sessions. If its necessary to break a tie on a vote, their votes will be considered in the manner specified by the certification document without hindering their right to participate in the debate.

D. The floor will be given to discuss facts when they are directly involved with the certification to be discussed.

E. If the facts are not related to the matter being discussed, the remarks will be scheduled after the certification scheduled for discussion.

F. When proposals are made related to the certification, they will be processed immediately.

3. The parties will be able to select and separate the cases which interest them. They will be scheduled in accordance with the respective commission.

4. The commissions' decisions will be distributed among the members of the plenum as they are approved by the commissions' meetings and they do not need to be read.

5. Each certifying commission will form subcommissions to help in the certifying work. The allegations should be submitted to them in writing by the parties. Their decisions will be turned over the the appropriate commission so they can be included in the appropriate certification ready for publication in the report on the debates.

6. The files regarding the certification to be discussed should be placed on the podium and available for review by the plenum, secretaries, and scheduled speaker.

7. For the voting proceedings, the members of the college will wear their identification and/or their appropriate accreditation.

8. The certifications of the districts which were not reserved by the parties for separate discussions will be voted on [words indistinct].

Certifies 12 More Deputies

FL2408200988 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0527 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico, 23 Aug, (NOTIMEX)—Twelve out of the 19 reports presented for consideration by the Electoral College were approved, without objection, by the parliamentary majority following the agreement established among six out of the seven political organizations represented in this examining body. Out of the 19 reports evaluated at the Electoral College's session, 5 correspond to minority parties and the remainder to the PRI.

During the session, which began at 1300 with a recess from 1415 to 2030 and during which it was agreed that the Electoral College will remain in permanent session, the following cases were approved: Ismael Orosco Loreto, PRI, from Jalisco's 11th district; Jesus Ixta Serna, PRI, from Mexico's 24th district; Javier Bonilla Chavez, PRI, from Hidalgo's 5th district; Rebeca Anchondo, PRI, from Chihuahua's 9th district; Humberto Urquiza Marin, FDN [National Democratic Front], from Michoacan's 2d district.

Likewise, the factions of presumed deputies did not object to the cases of Juan Ugarte Cortes, from Mexico's 33rd district, PRI; Vicente Segura, from Veracruz' 3d district, PRI; Jose de Jesus Miramontes, PAN, from Mexico's 14th district; Rafael Melgosa, FDN, from Michoacan's 13th district; Cesar Coll, PAN, from Jalisco's 13th district; Magdaleno Gutierrez, PAN, from the Federal District's 9th district; and Marco Antonio Castellanos, PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution], from Veracruz' 15th district.

The districts which held debates because they thought there were irregularities in the elections were the 4th of Yucatan, Eric Rubio; 6th of Coahuila, Humberto Roque Villanueva; 5th of Tamaulipas, Alvaro Garza Cantu; 17th of Veracruz, Antonio Cruz Sanchez; 7th of Chihuahua, Carlos Barranco; 8th of Tamaulipas, Miguel Cavazos; and 3d of San Luis Potosi, Emilio de Jesus Ramirez. All of them were (?sent) to the PRI federal electoral commission.

Meanwhile, PAN and the organizations related to the FDN objected to some of the mentioned districts.

Guillermo Jimenez Morales, coordinator for the current PRI deputies, said that with the signing of the agreement among six of the political organizations declaring the Electoral College in permanent session, there is enough time for the Chamber of Deputies to be formed prior to 29 August. He added that the consensus sought is evident with the signing of the agreement.

The document contains the political will of the parties. This is fundamental in political affairs, like the decision and willingness manifested there, he stressed.

Opposition Withdraws

PA2508215288 Paris AFP in Spanish 1530 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (AFP)—Early this morning tension in Mexico's Chamber of Deputies increased when 227 opposition deputies-elect withdrew from the Electoral College debates on the certification of the 6 July elections.

Pedro Etienne, National Democratic Front (FDN-center left) coordinator, said the opposition took this step because the PRI deputies-elect refuse to open the electoral packages that contain the documents issued by 55,000 polling tables. Doing this would reveal the real election results.

Etienne said the opposition's withdrawal might be permanent and that the issue will be analyzed by the FDN and the conservative National Action Party (PAN) in the next few hours.

On 15 August the Electoral College began to analyze, amid angry debates, the cases of each of the 500 deputies who will presumably comprise the next Chamber of Deputies.

The next Chamber of Deputies must be formed in 5 days; yet only 80 cases have been approved, and the opposition's withdrawal might prevent the creation of the new Chamber of Deputies by 1 September, when President Miguel de la Madrid must issue his sixth and last state of the nation speech—to the new deputies.

A source close to the Chamber of Deputies said: "No one knows what will happen now."

Deputy on Withdrawal

FL2608032688 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0010 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The presumed deputy from the state of San Luis Potosi, Gonzalo Martinez Corbala, has said that the Mexican Congress has to unite to [words indistinct] during the permanent session of the Electoral College of the Chamber of Deputies. Martinez Corbala said that if the Congress is not formed by 1 September when President Miguel de la Madrid gives his presidential report, the constitutional order will go haywire. He said that the PRI has tried to contact opposition representatives so that everyone can take a step forward in Mexico's interest to constitutionally form the Congress.

In reference to the opposition's withdrawal from the meeting when the results of the 6 July elections were being verified, Martinez Corbala said the opposition kept trying to bring up certain topics at inappropriate times during the session.

The former Mexican ambassador to Cuba and Chile said he was confident that the opposition will not boycott the sixth and last report made by President de la Madrid. He discarded the possibility that the opposition will create a scene by leaving at the precise moment the report begins.

I know many of them, he said, and I know that they are Mexican patriots who are concerned about the best interests of the nation.

Costa Rica

Government Foresees Difficulty in Paying Wages

PA2508215188 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Costa Rican Government is very concerned about the problem of paying wages in the public sector, as was noted in an analysis presented at a Government Council meeting on Wednesday.

Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo gave a full explanation of the country's fiscal and financial situation, as well as the government's obligations with regard to wages.

The finance minister told the Government Council that labor costs have placed the government in a very difficult position and that almost all of the country's pension funds are experiencing serious deficits.

The government's current wage obligations and those that it will soon face as a result of upcoming judicial rulings could force the government to adopt serious fiscal measures.

The creation of new taxes, in addition to the existing tax burden, is one of the measures that the government will have to adopt; otherwise, it will not possibly be able to cover government employees' wages. Information Minister Guido Fernandez told reporters that this report caused great concern among the members of the Government Council.

El Salvador

Duarte Health Relapse, Complication Reported

PA2608035588 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0316 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Another relapse in President Duarte's health has been attributed to diabetes caused by chemotherapy treatments. He has lost 15 pounds in the past few days. This afternoon Communications Minister Roberto Viera reported on the current health of President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who is suffering from a new complication as a result of the diabetes. President Duarte has suffered from diabetes for many years, but it has been become more acute because of the chemotheraphy treatments, which he has received twice since he was admitted to the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington.

[Begin Viera recording] It is a new phenomenon that has appeared and has undoubtedly generated a new complication. But it is not the same phenomenon as the drop in white corpuscles. It is a phenomenon that deals fundamentally with the amount of sugar in the organism. He has, in fact, suffered for many years from diabetes. This is a new phenomenon that has arisen, however. Salvadoran doctors are treating President Duarte for this new condition at this time. [end recording]

Mr Viera said that President Duarte has now lost a total of 35 lbs.

Government Rejects Nicaraguan Protest Note

PA2508162688 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Aug 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Yesterday the Salvadoran Government rejected a protest note received from the Sandinist regime regarding the occupation of the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Salvador 2 days ago by six Nicaraguan citizens.

Deputy Foreign Minister Joaquin Alexander Maza Martelli said the protest note from the Sandinist regime contradicts a statement to the Salvadoran press by the head of the Salvadoran [as published] mission, who thanked the Salvadoran Government for its handling of the incident. [passage omitted]

Maza Martelli told LA PRENSA GRAFICA El Salvador has already categorically rejected the note because "we believe—and we regret that the Sandinist regime was not duly informed—the Salvadoran Government handled the incident diligently, making it possible to resolve the problem quickly."

Maza Martelli added that another important aspect about which Managua was not informed was the procedure followed by the Salvadoran authorities, who obtained authorization from the head of the Nicaraguan mission to arrest the Nicaraguan citizens, as stipulated in Provision 1, Article 22, of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. In other words, we obtained the consent and authorization from the head of the Nicaraguan mission, Maza Martelli said.

Maza Martelli stressed the Sandinist protest note contradicts a statement to the media by the head of the Nicaraguan mission, in which he thanked the Salvadoran Government and the Foreign Ministry for its handling of the situation. Consequently, Maza Martelli said, in rejecting the note, El Salvador reiterates its strict compliance with its international commitments contained in the Vienna Convention, particularly concerning the security of the missions accredited before its government. [passage omitted]

FMLN Spokesman Reaffirms Alliance With FDR

PA2508225688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2210 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrilla movement does not agree with but "will respect" the decision of its political allies in the FDR to participate in the March 1989 presidential elections. Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the FMLN Political Commission, made this statement to ACAN-EFE over the telephone from Mexico today.

Ana Guadalupe asserted that the disagreement between the FMLN and the FDR on the elections "will not break the alliance, because it is a strategic alliance, while the disagreement on the elections is a tactical difference resulting from the current situation."

The rebel commander said that the FMLN, which has been conducting a unilateral armed struggle for 8 years, "will continue fighting for power in the same manner as in the past."

"We are sure the armed struggle is the correct way to attain power," the guerrilla commander added. [passage omitted]

Commander Ana Guadalupe said the elections are part of the counterinsurgency plan developed by the Christian Democratic Government "under U.S. direction." [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Cerezo on Esquipulas, Summit Meeting, U.S.

PA2508125488 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Interview with President Vinicio Cerezo by unidentified reporters at Santo Tomas farm in Guatemala; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Mr President.

[Cerezo] Hello. Nice meeting you and welcome to Guatemala.

[Reporter] Mr President, on previous "Face to Face" programs we have interviewed other Central American presidents about the contribution of Esquipulas II to Central America.

[Cerezo] Much has been said about what Esquipulas II has done for Central American stability and peace, our current problems, our future difficulties, and the solutions to our problems. I would say that we must analyze Esquipulas II objectively. First, Esquipulas II achieved its main goal: to reduce tensions in Central America.

At the time we signed Esquipulas II here in Guatemala, there was talk about a Central American war between three or four Central American countries against Nicaragua. There were frequent talks about militarism and in fact there were clear signs of an increase in militarism in Central America. The Central American armies were growing larger, there was an increase of more powerful weapons, there were improved attack and defense techniques, etc. There were a series of signs proving that Central America was heading toward a regional conflict.

After Esquipulas II was signed, the specter of a generalized war in the region disappeared. Now we have internal problems in each of the countries and we hold talks about the ways in which we will face the future. Esquipulas at least brought detente and peace for 1 year. Esquipulas II also led to the search for mechanisms to reach agreeements among Central American countries and it opened possibilities to attain new mechanisms.

Obviously, there are many problems to be resolved, but Central Americans must start learning that problems are not resolved overnight and that solutions are the result of permanent and consistent process to attain final goals.

[Reporter] Mr President, on previous occasions you have admitted that Esquipulas II has reached a deadlock. After the meeting in Costa Rica in January, the peace process has not made any major progress. In your opinion, how could Central America prevent the death of Esquipulas II?

[Cerezo] Although there was a lot of progress concerning Nicaraguan democratization, there have been some problems. In the last few months, there have been obvious problems, which we are trying to correct now. The dialogue in El Salvador has reached an impasse, the approval for the formation of a Central American parliament has come to a standstill in El Salvador and Costa Rica, although the Costa Rican Congress has already received the bill, and in Guatemala there are problems on agreeing on a dialogue between the National Reconciliation Commission and the guerrilla movement.

I believe what we really need is a Central American presidential summit. When we met in Costa Rica we realized our foreign ministers had discussed procedures and had met with difficulties. The presidents, however, met with their ability to make decisions and we signed the Costa Rica agreement as a follow up to Esquipulas II.

Now that we are facing many difficulties, because of circumstances not connected [as heard] with Central America, such as the U.S. elections, the coming elections in El Salvador, and the difficulties Nicaragua is facing in holding a dialogue, I feel the Central American presidents must meet.

We have not forced the meeting, because we feel there are many details to be analyzed. In addition, we have taken President Duarte's situation into account now that he is struggling to save his life and continue working for democracy. However, the Guatemalan people and I believe that the region's presidents must meet again to review the process, critique it, and make decisions to institutionalize agreements and dialogues. That is the way to advance Esquipulas II.

[Reporter] Mr President, in countries like El Salvador, which is experiencing a war in which many people are dying and which is immersed in the militarism you mentioned before, people increasingly distrust Esquipulas II. Most sectors say that only President Duarte and

President Arias believe in that process. How can you avoid that pessimism among Central Americans, especially now that Nicaragua is not fulfilling Esquipulas II?

[Cerezo] There has always been both a tendency to be impatient regarding peace and a dialogue to find solutions, and a reluctance to admit that war does not produce solutions and only brings destruction. Esquipulas II has created a favorable climate for talking and has stopped radicalization and confrontation. Maybe this process has not advanced very far, but it has not created any great problems in the countries involved and has not resulted in more victims, more dead, and more bombings and destruction.

Conversely, war has been raging for years in Central America, particularly in El Salvador, and has not resulted in a solution, nor will it help find one because modern irregular wars with undefined fronts or enemies tend to last a long time and preclude a clear outcome. There is no military victory. There was not one in Vietnam or Afghanistan. Neither the United States, the Soviet Union, nor any other country has ever been able to end wars by winning them. No military victory has occurred in the Iran-Iraq war, which has killed a million people. Infrastructure worth billions of dollars has been destroyed. The war has worn out the two nations. Dialogue and agreement are encountering difficulties. Yet there is only one solution for war, and that is a political one. This is what is happening in Iran and Iraq at present. The two countries predicted immediate victory 8 years ago based on their respective military and economic powers. Now they are negotiating an armistice after 1 million young people have been killed. Nothing was achieved. They spent money from the sales of oil to buy arms, money that filled the coffers of more powerful countries rather than their own. Was war a solution? Borders remained the same. Cities have been destroyed and these countries must now begin a political process to end the war.

We have to do the same in Central America. Guatemala is right in the center of the area. The Guatemalan Army is recognized everywhere as very efficient, able, and well-trained. It has achieved resounding victories with few resources. But there is a small group of guerrillas who will bother us for years and continue disrupting economic development in certain areas of the country. An officer gets killed now and then, as well as many soldiers. Rebels continue to victimize families. There is a small group whose members think they have the right to keep planting antipersonnel mines and maiming people. This makes no sense. This small war of theirs has only one solution: a political victory. This is the victory of the majority of the people, who want political openness.

The same is true in El Salvador and everywhere. For years Salvadoran guerrillas have been saying the final war effort will be made next year, but they have only succeeded in destroying the country's economy and killing many people. This is no longer an alternative. Therefore, if war is not an alternative, then peace is. Consequently, we must have a political willingness to build peace for the good of the people.

A full year has passed since we signed Esquipulas II. We have been harshly criticized. It has been said we failed. The war is 8 years old now, yet nobody cares to say war has failed as an alternative. In El Salvador the Army is winning the war, but final victory might take many more years. Guerrillas have been resisting and will continue to resist for many years to come. But they are not a suitable alternative. War has been defeated. Esquipulas is still young and it will forge ahead.

[Reporter] During the inauguration of new Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who was there, said the Guatemalan Government has not complied with Esquipulas II because it failed to negotiate with the guerrillas. Do you think Guatemala has not complied? Has Costa Rica complied?

[Cerezo] President Arias is a respectable man, but he has to point his finger at all of us because he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Peace has not been achieved, but he must be respected all the same. I think he is partially right, and only partially. Esquipulas II provided for the creation of a mechanism to keep peace, the Central American parliament. It was approved in Guatemala but not in Costa Rica. Each of us could say someone has not complied with something.

This is why Guatemalans, honestly and without thinking of awards or gaining prestige but wanting to achieve peace, propose a meeting of presidents for self-criticism. At that meeting we would admit we have not complied and state what we have to do. The crux of the matter is not who has not complied, but what we all have to do to achieve peace.

If we consider Costa Rica's experience during the past 20 years, we will see this country has the least difficulty in complying. Nevertheless, Costa Rica has not complied with the Central American parliament or created a reconciliation commission as stipulated in the Esquipulas agreement. We created a reconciliation commission, approved the Central American parliament, and started a dialogue. It was not up to the government to start the dialogue, but to the reconciliation commission, whose members have been seeking a dialogue. We are willing to admit we have encountered difficulties. This way we could say we have failed. We have also encountered domestic difficulties. But the important thing is for us to meet and see what we have not complied with and why, and recognize the positive aspects of the Esquipulas agreement. It sent the specter of war away from us. We should also see that the other Central American presidents comply with the agreement.

For example, President Arias asked me to speak to the Costa Rican opposition to approve the Central American parliament. I did and the Costa Rican opposition

made up its mind to back the parliament. Arias offered to talk with Guatemalan guerrillas about the possibility of dialogue. I think he has been unable to convince them. The guerrillas have continued to propose [2-second station break] talk with them. We hope to convince them of something important. No small group, even if they think they have received a message from God, has the right to violate the Constitution or the law. We must ask the people. The people established the regulations and supported the Constitution, the laws, and elections. The guerrillas must accept this decision and publicly express their decision to lay down their weapons and politically participate in the government. In Guatemala, the guerrillas have the right to participate in the government with their votes, but not with arms.

This is the purpose of the Esquipulas meeting. Maybe we have not complied. We are willing to admit we have not complied with some points for the sake of peace in Central America.

[Reporter] You have said Costa Rica has not experienced problems in 20 years. For many, however, this situation will change now that the Nicaraguan president has openly declared himself a socialist. In addition, he has approached General Manuel Antonio Noriega in Panama. We think Costa Rica could be the next victim of Marxist aggression. What do you think about this?

[Cerezo] If Costa Rica can be destabilized in the near future, the country should be even more interested in the peace process. Costa Rica does not back the peace process or the Central American parliament. Some Costa Rican domestic groups do not want to be involved in the Central American conflict. They will experience the opposite of what the Bible says: When the house next to yours is on fire, it is high time to look after your own. And this is true. They should anticipate things. Nobody wants more problems in Costa Rica than there are already. There are serious social problems, and of every kind. The economic crisis has affected us all. There have been bombings and terrorism. We do not want this to happen in Costa Rica. We who have been victimized by these problems caused by groups, such as Marxists, who do not want to share with us the will of the people's majority. They want to impose their own will. This will bring them very serious problems, as we told them already. This is why we insist that if Costa Rican political leaders tell their people that the Esquipulas II peace process and the Central American parliament can prevent them from suffering what we suffered, the Costa Rican people will understand and support us.

[Reporter] Another important point in this peace process is the U.S. position. A foreign ministers' meeting was held recently which the U.S. secretary of state attended. For many this entails new U.S. intervention in the process and the United States reassuming the hegemony it has always had in the region.

[Cerezo] Look, we are trying to be absolutely objective. I have said that we should forget the traditional Yankee-go-home and Yankees-are-OK attitudes. Neither attitude is right. The Americans must take part in our political life, because a country the size of the United States naturally has influence and interests not only in our region but also in all parts of the world.

If Europeans discuss with them matters of common interest and sometimes tell them yes and sometimes no, then why can we not do the same? The United States presented a proposal to us. We did not agree with the proposal, but we discussed it. I believe the results of the discussion were positive, because although the United States was initially upset, it understood our position and we reached an agreement that concerns democracy and security in Central America. However, the agreement does not go to the extremes of either being for or against Nicaragua or the United States. Modern politics does not function that way.

Modern politics is aimed at reconciling national and international interests for the sake of progress. We respect the United States and want to be its partner in democracy, but we have made it known that we are not going to be the pawns of any international policy. I can testify that so far the United States has shown respect for me. Perhaps sometimes they are dissatisfied and they may state their dissatisfaction. They have the right to do so.

In Guatemala, however, the majority of Guatemalans—the Army, the private sector, the popular sectors—agree that war is not a good business for us to be in because we would be supplying the bodies while others would be supplying the bombs. Therefore, war does not suit us. We have been able to convince the Americans that it is fine for them to have ideas but that they must consult us as to whether or not we like their ideas, because in some instances we would be the victims of those policies. I believe this position is gaining ground in the United States.

We have proposed another interesting idea to the United States. This idea is making headway and could produce a new policy. The idea is that any agreement must be a compromise agreement between the two U.S. political parties. We cannot reach agreements with the U.S. Administration or with the U.S. Congress only. We have to make sure that the two parties agree on a given policy so that we do not become the victims of the U.S. elections.

[Reporter] Mr President, you have said that the United States has shown respect for the Guatemalan people. Do you believe that the same applies to the people of the other Central American countries?

[Cerezo] You will have to ask that of the other Central American presidents.

[Reporter] Do you think that Esquipulas II is giving the Nicaraguan regime—the regime the Sandinists are imposing—time to consolidate its power?

[Cerezo] Esquipulas II does not contribute to a Sandinist consolidation of power—which is what the Sandinists would like—or to a forceful overthrow of the Sandinists—which is what their enemies would like. What we have to do is create the conditions so that it is the Nicaraguan people who decide what government they want. A revolutionary and communist regime wanting to impose a revolution in every single country does not suit anybody, because such a regime creates guerrillas everywhere. However, this does not mean that we have to change the Sandinist regime by force and impose an unwanted regime on the people. We have to work to build peace and not overcome our problems through war—which would be a very difficult way to overcome problems anyway.

What we have to do is create the conditions through persuasion and, sometimes, through pressure, but without intervening directly. Conditions could be created through agreements that would allow the Nicaraguan people to live without confrontation and allow the Sandinist regime to stop meddling with us, because if they continue meddling with us, we will be forced to meddle with them. However, if we meddle with them first, they will be forced to meddle with us.

We have to create conditions for mutual coexistence. The United States has been able to coexist with communist China and the Soviet Union because it had no other choice. We will see what happens in Nicaragua. We have to create favorable conditions for the Nicaraguans.

Once I was talking with some friends and told them: You want us to wage war on Nicaragua; all right—how many recruits do we need? We would have to double the size of the Guatemalan Army. How much is that going to cost? How many trucks and planes we will have to buy to invade Nicaragua? If Nicaragua responds in kind, they would train guerrillas to operate in Guatemala. The war would continue, they would not be able to resolve their economic problems, and someday we would have to invade them.

However, if there are four economically successful democracies backed by solid armies and by peoples in favor of democracy, and if we create the conditions so guerrillas disappear, then if Nicaragua were to continue acting up, we would be able to dispose of it any way we choose—but first we must consolidate our system and create ways to resolve differences.

Time is very important. We can resolve the situation tomorrow or the next day, but it does not necessarily have to be tomorrow or the day after. The circumstances will determine the moment. The important factor is the method, not the moment.

In the present situation, war would be justifiable only if it were of a defensive nature. If they were to attack us, we must defend ourselves, but that would not be a war of aggression. I have spoken to you about some wars: Iran-Iraq, Vietnam, Afghanistan, El Salvador. There is no definitive war in any part of the world, regardless of systems. Wars bring only destruction. Dialogues open the possibility of solutions.

[Reporter] President Cerezo, when should the presidential summit take place?

[Cerezo] As soon as possible. I would say by the end of September.

[Reporter] I want to touch the other subject of this interview: the Central American parliament. As creator of the idea of the Central American parliament, how do you think this parliament would benefit the Central American region?

[Cerezo] First, we would have a forum where we could talk and not fight. Second, it would create political opportunities for free and supervised elections in all these countries. No one will be able to say: We have free elections here, but those over there do not have them. No one will be able to say that, because all of us are going to accept supervised elections. Third, all political groups will be able to participate in the region's political institutions, because delegates to the parliament will be elected on the basis of election-results percentages.

The parliament would not be like Esquipulas II, which does not guarantee the presidents will meet again, because it depends on the circumstances. The parliament would be a permanent forum.

The parliament would have historic importance: It would be a first step toward Central American unity, it would allow the participation of other Caribbean countries in mutually suitable discussions, and it would allow us to increase our communications and see Central American problems with common eyes and not from a single perspective.

A system cannot exist in one country if it is very different from those in other countries. There could not be an orthodox Marxist and communist system with a proletarian dictatorship, as exists in Russia or Cuba. It could not exist in this region, because our countries would have to have election mechanisms. The parliament represents a peaceful and permanent solution to problems. Central America will continue having problems, though. The Central American economic integration effort failed because there was no adequate political body capable of adopting common laws like those adopted by the European Economic Community.

The truth is that this parliament is not my idea. Bolivar dreamed of it for Latin America. Morazan and Justo Rufino Barrios dreamed of it for Central America. We have found a modern formula to fulfill an old aspiration: the unity of Central America.

[Reporter] My country, El Salvador, is one of the countries that still has not approved the Central American parliament plan. The plan was not approved even when the Christian Democrat Party had a majority in the Legislative Assembly. How was this justified during the past presidents' meeting?

[Cerezo] No justification was given. Being a Christian Democrat, I must accept that it is a pity the Central American parliament was not accepted at that time. I believe the party had internal problems and did not reach an agreement regarding this plan. I do have the hope.... [changes thought] The Central American parliament plan will really tell if the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] continues to be a conventional extreme-rightist party that belongs to the past or if it is a rightist party beginning to modernize. If ARENA opposes the parliament, it will demonstrate that it continues to be the same old-fashioned, extreme-rightist, nationalist party of yesteryear that systematically opposed communism. This is not to say I favor communism. What I mean is ARENA will demonstrate it is a party that opposes communism and Central American integration and is a conventional extreme-rightist party. It is a party.... [changes thought] I believe it won elections today because it has started to present a new and different image. I want the Christian Democrat Party to win elections. I have always been very clear and definite about my position in this respect. However, if ARENA wins and it does not view integration as a solution to our common problems, it will cause us a lot of problems and will be a disaster for Central America. If, on the contrary, ARENA rightly maintains its ideology but modernizes its policies to advance in the search for Central American peace, political modernization, and integration, I believe it will render a great historic service to the region.

[Reporter] Mr President, ARENA has stated it will approve the Central American parliament plan with certain reservations. What is [words indistinct]?

[Cerezo] I do not know what its reservations are, but we will hear ARENA's position. In reality, the Central American parliament does not propose anything that steps over nationality, and everything is very well defined. The parliament can approve matters of a general nature but with due respect for the constitution of each country. A matter approved by parliament is sent to each Central American president, who must also approve it by consensus. Approval is not reached by a voting process but by consensus. It is like [words indistinct] an internal parliamentary system. The idea of the parliament is well respected, and its mechanisms were thoroughly discussed. I must add that even ARENA sent delegates to the parliament treaty discussions. We approved the parliament treaty when all the Central American political parties agreed to it. The parliament has total respect for nationality. We are aware we are a pluralist Central America, we are not identical, and we have our differences. However, we live on the same continent; reaching an agreement among ourselves is to our advantage. The parliament does accept differences between our countries but attempts to confront our common problems with common solutions.

[Reporter] One of biggest objections to the Central American parliament plan is its economic aspect. Have you looked for international financing to resolve this problem?

[Cerezo] That is correct, we have been... [changes thought] The parliament's basic problems are elections, the parliament's constitution, and construction of the parliament building. The EEC has offered to finance elections. Italy has offered to take over the entire construction of the parliament building, including its design and financing. The FRG has offered to organize the system and train technicians to ensure the parliament's future operation. The problems have been resolved, and we now need the political will of the countries involved.

[Reporter] One of our last questions. Recently it became known that Guatemala might join the nonaligned countries. Is this true? If so, what would be the purpose of such an action?

[Cerezo] We have not wanted to join other groups of countries until we resolve our problems in Central America. We are observers at the Nonaligned Movement and have occupied the position of president of the Group of 77. In reality, we do not want to join another group that implies polarization. We believe our responsibilities in Central America today is enough. However, our active neutrality policy allows us to speak for the nonaligned and for the aligned countries, [laughs] for the industralized nations, with everybody. I believe all the Central American countries should support an active neutrality policy, because we defend our own interests but also take other countries' interests into account.

[Reporter] Mr President, the Guatemalan currency was devalued recently. The devaluation was a strong blow to the country's economy and was strongly criticized by different sectors within the country. It is presently thought in El Salvador that President Duarte is being pressured by the United States to devalue its currency so the country does not get deeper into debt. In the case of Guatemala, the people are saying this measure represented a high political and personal price for President Cerezo but has not resolved the nation's problems.

[Cerezo] The IMF, the IDB, and Guatemalan financial data indicate our economic measures are producing positive effects for our country. Evidence of this is that... [changes thought] Guatemala is sort of the Central American supermarket; you Salvadorans are aware of

this. Guatemala produces more at a lower cost. We are selling more of our products to foreign countries, and we have one of the most stable currencies in Latin America. The currency devaluation was to our advantage, and it presently has an internal political cost.

As I see it, political leaders are elected to take historic decisions and not only to think about their personal charm. If we are doing the right thing, the Guatemalans will acknowledge it at a later date; in 6 months, they will see the positive aspects of the measure. During the first 6 months of 1986, similar measures were taken that were also criticized very much, but we recuperated in 1 and ½ years and won elections with 52 percent of the mayors offices and 40 percent of the country's votes against 12 opposition political parties. Everybody thought we were going to lose, but the people saw and accepted our efforts. The people are presently annoyed with us because we have taken measures that hurt them, but the measures we shall continue to take... [changes thought] The measures taken were not taken haphazardly; they are part of a plan to advance the nation and make it grow. That plan is being implemented with a certain degree of elasticity but with firmness and decisiveness.

Guatemala is going to grow, and we will make it a country that does not have to feel inferior to any other industrialized country in the world. We are carrying out the plan at the risk of our personal prestige but with the trust that our efforts will be acknowledged historically. The measures will also produce positive short-term effects, as they already have done. Naturally, people do not have to think about larger issues of politics and such things. Right now the people are feeling the measure's effects, and they are annoyed. However, as soon as people begin to receive the benefits of salary increases and increased availability of jobs, they will agree that the measures were correct. If the benefits are not sufficient, the people will vote for another party, which is the people's right.

[Reporter] Mr President, international news agencies have reported the resurgence of extreme-right groups, which might result in more violence in Guatemala. Do you believe this is possible?

[Cerezo] The progress we have achieved can only be lost in a coup d'etat. Central Americans have lived many years with groups of people who lose elections time and again and are constantly trying to use the Army as an instrument to defend their own political interests. Violence would increase or return if a coup d'etat takes place, but the new right-wing groups do not have the support of the government or the Armed Forces, so their activities have had little effect.

Reports about human rights violations have also practically ended; abuses by the police and other security forces has been corrected through the courts. Reports about common crimes and violent actions have increased slightly, so we must implement drastic measures to control them. The possibility of returning to the old-fashioned political violence, reports about missing people, and murders is practically nil. That threat can be overcome to the same degree our democratic system becomes efficient and resolves the problem.

However, everything can be spoiled or lost—much to our chagrin—but I trust our country's political leaders will be able to overcome the threat. Let me tell you something important, and this is a message for everyone: Honestly speaking, and even though we sometimes seem to be facing extremely difficult times, Guatemala's political, labor, military, and business leaders have agreed to make certain concessions, get together, discuss things, and seek a solution to our most critical problems. I believe this is a lesson for everyone.

We are currently facing strikes and problems, yet everyone is talking about renewing the dialogue, because no one wants to return to the confrontations that prevailed in the past, confrontations that were senseless. Polarization is stupid, and violence in our nations is a crime against mankind. Therefore, wa are obliged to admit our need to sit down and discuss things, because we all make mistakes. We are fed up with violence and confrontations, and we must renew the dialogue. The dialogue may be tedious and long, but it is better than violence and confrontations in the long run.

[Reporter] We are running out of time. Would you like to send a message to the Salvadoran people who are watching this special program? We interviewed you about 1 year ago, and we have also featured the other Central American presidents [words indistinct]. Would you like to add something?

[Cerezo] I salute the Salvadoran people and the Central American people. Let me tell you something: The Salvadoran people's sacrifice has always been an example for the Guatemalan people. I believe the Salvadoran people should no longer have to sacrifice themselves. The Salvadoran people have made great sacrifices for their future; political leaders at every level—particularly those in the guerrilla movement—have no right to continue sacrificing the Salvadoran people. They should sit down and talk and seek a negotiated solution so you may achieve peace.

I believe.... [changes thought] I trust the Salvadoran people, a hard-working and competent people who have always proved they are capable of overcoming their problems and have the courage to do it. I send them my sincere greetings. The Guatemalan people have their own problems, but the Salvadoran people's example and a firm decision to overcome our problems will help us attain peace in Central America.

President Meets With ARENA Delegation

PA2608043088 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Today the Salvadoran Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] delegation, which includes former presidential candidate Roberto D'Aubuisson, met with the Guatemalan president and with Vice President Roberto Carpio and Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera.

D'Aubuisson and ARENA, well-known adversaries of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party, currently control the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly.

Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle said that the Central American parliament was discussed during the meeting.

[Begin Carpio recording] We talked about the Central American parliament. We both agree; that is, ARENA agrees that the parliament is very important for Central America, for the peace process, and that the parliament would serve as a link between countries and allow them to overcome underdevelopment. So you can see that we are working for the parliament. We hope that if things continue to go as they have until now, we will have a treaty in a year's time. Given the great efforts that we have made, I feel we have made great strides.

We will provide you with more information as soon as we have it. Basically, however, I feel that only details are pending before we have a parliament. [end recording]

20,000 Protest Economy at Presidential Palace

PA2608030088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0029 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—A massive protest against Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo's economic policy was held in front of the Guatemalan Government palace tonight.

Approximately 20,000 people, including state workers, private workers, students, housewives, and members of the Unity for Labor and Popular Action [Unidad de Accion Sindical y Popular] (UASP), demanded that the government withdraw its new economic measures, which they described as "unpopular," because they increased the cost of living.

Cerezo recently approved economic measures, including an increase in fuel prices, which have been vigorously criticized by UASP, a labor organization opposed to the Guatemalan Christian Democratic regime.

Despite the criticism, the Guatemalan regime says it will support the measures, because they are destined to improve Guatemalans' standard of living and increase exports.

Students Strike Against High Cost of Living

PA2508202188 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Today university students in the country's western sector began a strike to protest the high cost of living. Reports from our correspondent Oscar Constantino Figueroa Valiente indicate that 2,300 students of the Western University Center will be joined by the students of San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Retalhuleu, and Mazatenango in a strike against the high cost of living.

The university students' strike will also be joined by students from other higher education centers. The students have stated that the strike was called to protest the high cost of living and to reject the misguided economic policy being implemented by the national government.

URNG Claims 3,500 Guerrillas in 10 Departments

PA2508230088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2025 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today a URNG leader, Commander Pablo Monsanto, reported that Guatemalan guerrillas are organized in seven war fronts and total 3,500 men operating in 10 of the country's 22 departments.

Monsanto, whose true name is Jorge Soto, told ACAN-EFE over the telephone from Costa Rica that the guerrillas "are backed by the people" in the country's north, northwest, high plateau, and southwest.

The commander said that during President Vinicio Cerezo's administration, "the guerrillas have increased in number and become stronger, because those who voted for the ruling Christian Democratic Party are disappointed by the government's policies."

Monsanto headed the URNG delegation that met with the National Reconciliation Commission, CRN, in San Jose on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The leader, who is also a commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR—one of the three groups that make up the URNG—refuted Cerezo's assertion that the guerrillas number only 700.

The rebel leader said: "Our forces are now stronger in Peten, Alta Verapaz, and Quiche in the country's north; Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, and Totonicapan in the west; San Marcos in the southwest; Suchitepequez in the south; and Chimaltenango and Solola in the central region."

He also said the URNG wanted to talk with the government without laying down its weapons, as the government has demanded, "to find a political solution to the country's political crisis" in compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement, "as Nicaragua and El Salvador have already done."

During the meeting with the CRN at the nuncio's office in San Jose on Wednesday, the URNG proposed a 90-day truce "while a national dialogue is held." The organization also proposed "humanizing the war" in line with the Geneva accords.

In addition, the URNG has requested that the Guatemalan Army "not shell the civilian population indiscriminately" and that the Air Force and artillery "be used carefully." [passage omitted]

Honduras

Foreign Ministry Denies Talks on U.S. Bases

PA2508212788 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Aug 88 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Foreign Ministry has denied that Honduras is negotiating with the United States to establish U.S. military bases here, although it has been learned that the agreements are ready to be signed.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman recalled that Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras recently told Congress that the government has no plans to permit the installation of foreign military bases.

However, he admitted that there are negotiations underway for an agreement on the installation of a U.S. radar system in Honduras, which will be managed by Hondurans.

He added that there are also talks for a joint agreement to control drug trafficking.

"There are no talks concerning military bases," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said in regard to the legalization of permanent U.S. troops in Honduras.

Since 1983, approximately 1,200 U.S. soldiers have been stationed at Palmerola Base, Comayagua Department, coordinating constant "war games" in Honduras.

The presence of U.S. troops coincides with an increase in U.S. aid for the Nicaraguan rebels struggling to topple Managua's revolutionary government from Honduran bases.

Meanwhile, military spokesman Juan Sierra Fonseca denied having any knowledge of negotiations on an agreement between Honduras and the United States for the establishment of U.S. military bases in Honduras.

He added that, in any event, an agreement of that nature would have to be approved by the National Congress.

'Sources' on Agreements

PA2508180088 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO Spanish 24 Aug 88 p 11

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Honduran Government will soon sign several agreements with the United States that will turn the country into a permanent U.S. military base through "facilities" provided for in Protocols I and II of the 1974 Military Assistance Agreement.

TIEMPO has learned about this from National Congress sources, who expressed concern because they are not familiar with the agreements' contents and are afraid the president will sign them in the next few days without consulting with the Congress.

The sources, who said this procedure is illegal, added this would not be the first such case, citing the establishment of the Military Training Regional Center, CREM, in June 1983. The Congress learned about it when the treaty with the United States had already been signed.

The sources, who wished to remain anonymous, warned that "the cat will be let out of the bag soon anyway." They added that these agreements are contained within those signed in 1954, which serve as the justification for the nearly permanent presence of numerous U.S. troops in Honduras since 1983.

Nevertheless, according to the latest agreement soon to be signed, the United States could station military units on a permanent basis and build sea ports, airports, and radar stations.

The United States would be authorized to board Honduran ships on the open sea and carry out any kind of actions against drug trafficking in Honduras.

During his 30 June visit to Tegucigalpa, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz reported on an agreement with the Honduran Government to build a powerful radar station to keep track of drug trafficking in the Caribbean.

However, Shultz gave no details of the negotiations regarding the 1954 agreement or the other accords the sources referred to.

The sources explained that this information was disclosed to pave the way for a top-level discussion that allows all the country's sectors to express an opinion on something that could be unilaterally decided upon, with serious consequences for the country.

This newspaper tried to get a reaction from the U.S. Embassy to the report, but it was impossible to reach an embassy source last night.

Armed Forces Explain Attack on Colombian Plane

Communique Issued

PA2508161388 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1634 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Directorate of Public Relations in Tegucigalpa on 24 August]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate advises the national and international public that on 23 August, at 1545, the presence of an undentified aircraft was detected within Honduran airspace. Honduran Air Force combat units reacted immediately, intercepting the aircraft and demanding identification in accordance with established procedure. When the aircraft failed to respond, the Air Force fired a warning; instead of complying, the aircraft fled. It was later confirmed that the aircraft landed in San Andres, Colombia, and official reports indicate it did not have the identification or registration documents all aircraft are required to have. It is presumed that when the aircraft trespassed into Honduran airspace, it was returning from a drug delivery mission.

The Honduran Armed Forces reassert their firm and unyielding struggle against international drug trafficking, which has done so much damage to society, especially to children and youth, in whom lie the future of the fatherland and all the countries of the free and democratic world, which are currently the victims of a dirty narcoterrorist war.

[Signed] Tegucigalpa, Central District, 24 August 1988
Honduran Armed Forces Directorate of Public Relations

Spokesman Comments

PA2508164488 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1634 GMT 24 Aug 88

[News conference held by Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides with unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Suarez] Yesterday, at approximately 1800, it was determined that an unidentified plane had entered Honduran airspace. The Honduran Air Force reaction squad immediately searched for and intercepted it. All international identification procedures were observed, which include approaching the plane, trying to communicate with it through international radio frequencies, establishing visual contact with the pilot, and signaling him with the wings to (?land). None of these warnings were heeded. Because the plane was very close to the Nicaraguan border, warning shots were also fired. It then entered Nicaraguan airspace.

According to reports by the Honduran Air Force, the plane did not bear any registry lettering or other markings. This is mandatory [words indistinct]. We later learned the plane was damaged and landed on San Andres Island, where it has been detained by Colombian authorities to question the plane's two crew members, the pilot and copilot. The light plane was empty.

This is the kind of light plane normally used by drug traffickers to haul drugs from some South American countries to the United States. The plane entered Honduran territory; because the Armed Forces are on alert around the clock to protect our airspace, it was detected and pursued until it left our national jurisdiction.

[Reporter] The plane turned out to be empty, according to Colombian authorities. Since it flew over Honduran territory, could it be, Colonel, that it dropped its cargo over Honduran jurisdictional waters?

[Suarez] We know that in South America there are airstrips from which light planes of this type take off. These are very fast planes with a long flight range. They fly drugs to Caribbean islands for shipment by sea to the United States. This plane was empty because it had already delivered its cargo and was returning to base in some South American country.

[Reporter] Has this action by the Honduran Armed Forces been reported to the Foreign Ministry and then to the Colombian Government?

[Suarez] We are taking steps and have contacted Colombian authorities to learn the full truth. The plane had no registry number, so we have to investigate in Colombia to determine the plane's origin and initial place of registry.

[Reporter] What do you know about drug control activities along Honduras' northern coastline?

[Suarez] This is tangible and visible evidence the Armed Forces are keeping their word to fight drug trafficking in our country. These activities, which come to light in cases like this, should give the Honduran people confidence in their military institution. Although the military is sometimes misunderstood by some sections of the media, our ultimate judges are the Honduran people, who must be certain all police, naval, air, and land forces composing the Armed Forces will try their best to protect the Honduran people from the scourge of drug abuse.

Nicaragua

Ortega Speaks at Community Radio Conference

On Media, Aid

PA2508233588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2203 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra on a "Face the People" program to attendees of the third World Assembly of Community Radios Conference at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua on 25 August—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ...earned by the right-wing groups because the revolutions are unchangeable. Revolutionary changes are generally rigidly imposed and sweep aside the previously established order. We did not do that here. We did not sweep aside the previously established order.

It is true that we have had a substantial change in government, and that is irreversible; however, the revolution has given those sectors an opportunity, and that is a fact. They have been given an opportunity in the economic and political sense.

The problem has become more acute because of the U.S. Government's aggression. We would not have closed that newspaper, as we have done on other occasions, if there had been no U.S. Government aggression. We were compelled to close it because it openly sided with the power that is attacking our country.

The people are the best witnesses because they see and feel the aggression every day. They know who is responsible for the aggression. The people cannot go wrong, even when a right-wing radio or newspaper tells them that the Nicaraguan Government is responsible for the aggression.

The people know that the aggression is being perpetrated by the counterrevolution because the people have seen the revolution come to their communities to build a health center or a school, and they have seen the counterrevolution come and destroy the school and health center, and kill the teacher, doctor, worker, and peasant who was working in the cooperative.

The people also know that the counterrevolution is being financed by Reagan and the Yankee government; therefore, we are not afraid of a political-ideological debate. We believe that it would be a good opportunity to state the Nicaraguan revolution's contributions. The right-wing publications have been allowed to come out despite the conditions created by the aggression. It is a fact that the least we should have done was to close them until the war ended. Once the war and the aggression ended, then the right-wing media would be allowed to reopen. That is the least we should have done.

We did not do that, however. We did not implement such an extreme measure—even though it was perfectly well justified. We have instead given them every chance to issue their message, which is a counterrevolutionary message. We have urged them to avoid becoming involved in the aggressive U.S. policy, but it has been a difficult task because their position coincides with the U.S. policy. Furthermore, the Yankee government finances those media, so this poses a difficult situation for the revolution.

I believe that this has served to test the Nicaraguan people's level of awareness, which has remained strong despite the right-wing media's presence in our country. The right-wing media are here in our country, in Costa Rica, and even in the United States, and they are bombarding us with their messages. However, the people have not been deceived. The people have learned to participate in debates and discussions to defend the revolution. [applause] [6-minute station break] [passage omitted]

I would like to point out the attitude of the non-Nicaraguans who have come to help and cooperate with Nicaragua. These people have come to our country from Europe, the United States, Latin America, and other countries. They have open minds and come with the desire to teach and learn. We believe these are their intentions, since they do not manifest a paternalist attitude. We do not sense that they are trying to influence us with their countries' values, or that because of these values they have come to Nicaragua with a paternalist, colonialist, or neocolonialist attitude. We have not sensed this attitude in the foreigners who have come to Nicaragua to help our farmers. I must also note that these foreigners find workers and farmers in Nicaragua who are simply not willing to accept a colonialist, neocolonialist, or paternalist attitude. People who work with Nicaraguans realize that our people are very critical, very disrespectful—in the good sense of the word—and are not willing to accept paternalist or colonialist attitudes. Nicaraguans reject these attitudes right away.

The problem is not in this area. Yes, there is a basic problem. It is based on the attitudes of the highly industralized and developed countries with market economies in their relations with developing nations. Their attitudes are characterized by paternalism, colonialism, and neocolonialism. An example of a paternalist attitude is the Yankees' cynical attitude. When we refer to Yankees, we mean the Yankees who have imperialist attitudes. There are, of course, Yankees and there are Yankees. The imperialist Yankee cynically uses the carrot and the big stick. The imperialist Yankee clearly exhibits the paternalist, colonialist, neocolonialist attitude.

This attitude is also exhibited by other countries to a greater or lesser extent. Recently LA PRENSA published an interview with a gentleman or deputy from the FRG who wanted to give lessons on democracy here in Nicaragua. I would like to know if that gentleman expressed concern for the Nicaraguans during the Somoza period. Now he wants to come here and give lessons in democracy to the Nicaraguans. This sort of problem does exist. There are even problems that go beyond the situation of Nicaragua versus the United States and other countries. These are the problems that exist between the developing nations—the so-called Third World nations—and the developed countries, which maintain a neocolonialist, paternalist policy and an unjust world economic order that oppresses and exploits our countries. Regarding the foreigners who visit Nicaragua, however, I can assure you that we have not found a paternalistic or colonialistic attitude in those persons who come to our country to work and mingle with our people.

Scores U.S. 'Genocide'

PA2608031488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2344 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the closing session of the third World Assembly of Community Radios Conference at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua on 25 August—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Nicaragua's struggle has been a real one in which the regime of oppression, subordination to imperialism, and subjection of the people in this country has

been defeated. A real democracy in the true sense of the word has been established. We are somewhat redundant and say popular democracy. We have done so to distinguish ourselves from the bourgeois system of democracy. The bourgeoisie has its definition of democracy. For capitalists, democracy is the right and liberty of the capitalists to exploit the majority, the workers. But real democracy, popular democracy, is described by the word. It is the people's power; it is not the power of a minority to oppress the people, but the people's power. And I want to believe it was achieved with the revolutionary triumph in Nicaragua—the power of the people, for the people, and by the people.

And that is why the Nicaraguan revolution identifies not only with the peoples of the developing countries, but also with the peoples of developed countries. In the United States, it is very difficult to wage a struggle against the imperialist policy, against the policy of Reagan. We have to acknowledge the U.S. citizens who are in favor of the struggle of the Nicaraguan people, who are against the imperialist policy, who condemn the policy of their government. We have to acknowledge the U.S. citizens who have to make an even greater effort than we Latin Americans or people in other developing or developed countries, even though the interests of those countries are subordinate to U.S. policy.

It has not been for nothing that people in the United States have demonstrated and expressed themselves, not only with words, but with deeds. A U.S. citizen was assassinated here. Benjamin Linder was assassinated by the U.S. Government, by Reagan, who has assassinated U.S. citizens. And why did Reagan assassinate Benjamin Linder? Benjamin Linder was not part of the Sandinist People's Army. He was not a soldier of the Interior Ministry. Benjamin Linder was a soldier of peace, of fraternity. He came here to the mountains, to a high-risk region, to work with the peasants, to contribute with them toward making improvements, so that they could have water for irrigation, water to drink, or so that they could have some electricity. Benjamin Linder was engaged in this type of work when the contras arrived and assassinated him.

Brian Willson, that hero of peace, protested in front of the U.S. Congress and then went and protested at a place where a train was scheduled to pass. He protested, not to request the Yankee government's ouster, because he was not requesting the Yankee government's ouster, he was not requesting Reagan's resignation, and he was not conspiring against the Yankee government. He simply went to protest and demand that the Yankee government stop sending weapons to Central America and stop sending weapons to the contras. Well, no one stopped the train and it ran over Willson, cutting off his legs.

Rolfe [name indistinct] is a Catholic priest who has been imprisoned five times. Mr Dole, the U.S. congressman... [corrects himself] senator who wanted to be the Republican Party's presidential candidate, came here and did not know a Catholic priest had been imprisoned in the United States. He [Senator Dole] came to protest religious persecution in Nicaragua. He came to one of these rooms and protested religious persecution in Nicaragua, yet he ignores the religious persecution that is actually taking place in the United States against those who demand that no more contras be trained in the United States and that no more weapons be sent to Nicaragua and other Central American countries. That is the truth.

You have gathered here in Managua as Nicaragua is about to mark the 8th year... [changes thought] On 20 January 1989 Nicaragua will complete 8 years, 8 years [repeats himself] of facing the U.S. aggressive and terrorist policy. There is a lot of expectation because Reagan's administration is coming to an end. Reagan will leave in January and there is expectation about what will happen concerning Nicaragua when Reagan leaves and what will happen concerning Nicaragua before Reagan leaves.

Is Reagan capable of another crazy action, another crime, another genocide of invading Nicaragua? Will he be able to reconsider? Will he leave things as they are? Will he try to complicate things further and compromise the next administration with his terrorist policy against Nicaragua? All those questions are being asked, and we cannot answer them. All we can do is continue to defend our revolution as we have defended it, even if this involves great sacrifices, great sacrifices [repeats himself].

The U.S. war against Nicaragua has resulted in 54,553 dead, wounded, mutilated, and so forth; 28,067 of them are dead. In other words, more than 28,000 have died. I recently talked with a reporter and he said that certain people believe these figures are small. In fact, whoever sees those figures thinks they are insignificant compared to the number of dead in other conflicts.

The figures may be small, quantitatively speaking, but the figures are enormous compared to Nicaragua's population. That fact is not always obvious. If you say that 28,000 have died in 8 years it may sound like nothing, but if you take into consideration Nicaragua's population, which is currently about 3.5 million, then you are talking about genocide. You are truly talking about genocide, and it can be easily proved.

If the United States were subject to similar aggression—I mean aggression like this, aggression like this [repeats himself], in which its schools were destroyed and the U.S. people—meaning children and others—were killed. Logically, this is a hypothesis.

Let us say the aggression against the United States continues for as long as the 7 years and 7 months during which Nicaragua has suffered 54,553 casualties, of which 28,067 are deaths. If the United States were to endure the same type of aggression Nicaragua has had to endure, the United States would have 1,988,960 dead—almost 2 million dead.

This means the 28,067 deaths our small population has suffered would be the equivalent of 1,988,960 dead in the United States. It is a heavy toll. To these figures we would have to add the wounded. This U.S. death toll would be much higher than the U.S. death toll in World War II, in the Vietnam war, and in the Korean War. If we add up the U.S. death tolls from those three wars, we would see that the total would be much lower than 1,988,960 dead.

In the past 7 years and 7 months, the United States would have suffered, as a result of a filthy war—such as the one it has launched against the Nicaraguans—more dead than it had in those three wars combined.

Therefore, when we say Reagan is just like Hitler, we are not saying empty words, we are not being rhetorical. We are stating a fact. Whoever commits genocide against a nation is just like Hitler; I would say worse than Hitler. Hitler taught a terrible lesson to the people of the world, a terrible lesson, but when a U.S. administration easily decides to wage war—like the one being waged against Nicaragua or like the one that was waged against Vietnam—and forgets the suffering that fascism imposed on the world, that government is acting worse than Hitler. It is worse than Hitler because it is committing genocide, and Hitler committed genocide.

This is our situation. You are meeting in Nicaragua at a time when this is the situation we face.

What is the World Assembly of Community Radios? It is the expression, the voice of those who have been deprived of the right to communicate because there is a monopoly of the big media, and it is at the service of the powerful. What is the World Assembly of Community Radios? It is the expression of the will of communities, of neighborhoods, of villages, of towns, of the country. It is understanding the people who are sovereign and who have the right to build their future, people who are the masters of their present and have the right to build their future, but who see how the powerful seize that right from them.

This radio association represents the struggle that the Christians, when they were being persecuted, waged from the catacombs to make themselves heard, to deliver their message, a message of truth.

It is a message of truth and it demands a change in society. It is not an empty message. It is a message to change society. Society demands a change in order to break away from domination and oppression and achieve liberation. Society expresses its desire through the media.

If these are the goals of the World Assembly of Community Radios, then we, the Nicaraguans, the Sandinist people's revolution, the Nicaraguan Government, are members of this assembly, because we share the same struggle. Although the Nicaraguan people have gained power, we do not belong to the club of media owners that promote man's exploitation of man. The Nicaraguan people are totally against such exploitation. The fact that the Nicaraguan people achieved power, that most of the country's media is under the people's control, and that Nicaragua has true freedom of expression does not mean that Nicaragua [40-second break in reception].

Nicaragua, like most of the countries represented here, has faced slander campaigns. We have confronted the strength of multinational media monopolies that have distorted the Nicaraguan revolution's image and attempted to create favorable conditions to justify the U.S. Government's terrorist policies against Nicaragua. That is why we feel we are part of this struggle. We are in this battle together and we are on the same side.

The issue is not whether the Nicaraguan Government supports Marxism, but it is that we must continue to support each other because we are all struggling to attain a common goal and defend the same interests. All those who want the people's voice to be heard, the worker's voice to be heard, the voice of nations that were oppressed and today are free—like Nicaragua—to be heard, the voice of those nations that continue to be oppressed to be heard, must continue this struggle. We feel Nicaragua has your same problems. It is true that we are a revolution that has gained power and has a better position in the struggle, but we are willing and determined to continue to do everything we can for Marxism to be a determining factor in the developing countries' struggle. We have the will to do so.

Our biggest contribution to the struggle, however, is determined by the Nicaraguans' ability and will to defend the revolutionary process. As you are all aware, a blow to the Nicaraguan revolution—if the revolution surrendered or if it were destroyed—would mean a blow to all developing countries. It would be a blow to all the people, to Marxism. The Nicaraguan revolution's triumph was also Marxism's victory. In this unequal battle that we are all fighting, you can count on the determined support of the Nicaraguan people and government and the Sandinist people's revolution. It would seem that Nicaragua is the only situation that bothers the United States and it is the only obstacle they see. We would have to ask the Haitian representative—who spoke here recently—what is happening in his country. We would have to ask what is happening, what continues to happen, in Chile.

What is happening in South Africa, in Namibia? What is happening in the Middle East? So many conflicts, so many situations in which the United States has been completely compromised by the oppression these people have experienced. With what moral authority can the United States speak of democracy? It would have to review democracy in its own country to see if in fact there is democracy in the United States. It speaks on behalf of democracy, assuming that it is the most democratic country in the world. With what authority does it

do this when it was the one that promoted the coup against Salvador Allende in Chile and supports the dictatorship of Pinochet? It has promoted solutions that are not solutions in Haiti. It has promoted actions there that go against the interests of the Haitian people. It has refused to impose sanctions against the South African Government, but it has imposed sanctions against Nicaragua. All of this news is covered up over there.

Only the people can broadcast these truths. And they can broadcast them through the communications media that have come together in this world assembly of community radios. Therefore, you are a very important instrument. Therefore, we are very important instruments, because we also feel like protagonists in the effort that you are making. We will respond to the last question asked by the comrade regarding our position on this world assembly. This is what we believe. We feel we are part of it.

Again, comrades, we want to thank you for holding this event in Managua and honoring us with your presence here in Nicaragua. It has united us and brought us all closer. In one way or another, we are communicators of countries with different languages, with different customs, but we share a common ideal, which is that of true democracy in the precise sense of the word. Democracy is indivisibly linked to peace. There cannot be peace without democracy. Thank you very much.

Panama

No Renewal for U.S. Army Leases Confirmed

PA2608010388 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0006 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Aug (DPA)— Today Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez confirmed that the lease contracts of the U.S. Army personnel in Panama will not be renewed until Ronald Reagan's administration pays off what it owes to the Panamanian Government.

Bermudez added that the U.S. Army owes $800,000 in rent for 190 houses that belong to the Panamanian Government (property which reverted to the Panamanian Government as a result of the Torrijos-Carter treaties) and that are occupied by U.S. soldiers.

Bermudez said that the U.S. Defense Department issued a check and delivered it to the Panamanian Government to pay off part of the debt, but the check was subsequently canceled because of a presidential order issued by President Reagan which bans all tax payments to the government headed by Manuel Solis Palma.

The Panamanian Government is taking the necessary measures to collect this debt through its Foreign Ministry.

Cases of Illegal Activity by U.S. Soldiers Cited

PA2608045488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Aug

[Text] Our people have suffered the consequences of the misinformation campaign orchestrated by the Reagan administration against the Panama Defense Forces. The charges include harassment, aggression, and sexual violations against U.S. citizens who live in our country. Reality is just the opposite and the harassers, violators, drug traffickers, and sexual aggressors are the U.S. soldiers who are serving on bases located in our land.

Journalistic investigations allow us to cite some cases that demonstrate the facts we are reporting. Panamanian citizen Maria Eugenia Stevenson, 19, was raped and had her nose broken in an attack by a soldier, (Heinz M. Herr), stationed at Fort Kobbe. One month later, the Panamanian authorities were notified by Fort Clayton [authorities] that three soldiers named (Robert Sweit), (Anthony Person Stanley), and (Richard Harris), who were accused of possessing and consuming drugs and whose arrest had been requested by the attorney general, were no longer members of that command and were not in Panama.

Another soldier accused of the same crime, also from Fort Clayton, named (Natap McElmond, Jr.) managed to leave the country with the complicity and protection of the military authorities just like his fellow soldiers whose departure from the country was facilitated by the U.S. military authorities to evade Panamanian justice.

These cases demonstrate clearly that the ones who sexually attack others and consume and sell drugs that they even take to the United States are U.S. citizens, whose drunken brawls and aggressions against Panamanians go back to the incident of the watermelon slice [reference to incident involving U.S. soldier and Panamanian authorities during the construction of the Panama Canal] and have continued to the detriment of our people.

PRD President: 'Fascist Politicians' Lead U.S.

PA2608043888 Paris AFP in Spanish 2342 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Aug (AFP)—Today Carlos Duque, president of the Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD-Torrijist) said that the U.S. Government is headed by "radical fascist politicians."

Duque added that the U.S. leaders "are making their country make one mistake after another" in foreign policy issues.

Duque told AFP that Panama "is willing to talk with the United States, and we expect a change of attitude after the November elections, regardless of whether the Republican or the Democratic Party wins."

"Panama and the world hope that fresh minds will assume power and that they will change U.S. foreign policy," Duque said.

Duque denied recent reports issued in Washington that there is "lack of concern for the safety" of U.S. military personnel in Panama, stating that, on the contrary, "Panama is a country under attack in which the rights of all the U.S. soldiers are respected."

'Direct Threats' of United States Viewed

PA2508135988 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] Some 256 days before the elections, while the Electoral Tribunal is establishing the location for the 7 March polls, we find ourselves in the cycle of pressures and threats, and ships that are visible to all to serve as instruments of intimidation and panic. But what panic can be felt by a people who have been forced to go hungry, who have been strangled, whose tourism has been criminally blocked by the word at the airports that people die here on street corners? What fear can five little ships cause a people who are resolved not to go one step backward, not to capitulate or negotiate the fundamental right of their sovereignty?

Our topic today is direct threats. The State Department's spokesperson, the elegant Phyllis Oakley—who is a State Department member of a team of spokespersons, where spokespersons and under secretaries abound; I believe there are 15 or 20 under secretaries and about 8 or 10 spokespersons—Phyllis Oakley speaks in very concise paragraphs; she talks like a telegram. During a State Department press briefing in Washington, she said something very interesting: The United States can protect its citizens in Panama; no one should doubt we are able to protect our citizens, that we have the means and will do whatever is necessary.

This is a matter of history, Mrs Oakley. The United States has been protecting its citizens for more than 2 centuries. On behalf of those citizens and their protection, the United States has invaded countries, attacked defenseless countries, occupied territories, and committed all sorts of outrages. It is very clear that the United States, which had vanquished its own indigenous population, invaded Mexico and gradually seized territories, sometimes buying them and other times violently annexing them. Every time the United States lands troops or commits an inexplicable act, the classical pretext—no president is original; he repeats the script left by his predecessor—is that the lives of U.S. citizens are at stake.

On the small Caribbean island of Grenada, the lives of the university students were at stake. 4,000 to 5,000 Marines were sent to the Dominican Republic in 1965. They killed more than 2,000 Dominicans because the lives of U.S. citizens were at stake. Yet they did not die or have any problems. Therefore, this argument that they can or have the means to protect their citizens lacks current ingredients. It is the same doctrine and the same interventionist and arrogant position.

Who doubts they have the number one military apparatus with nuclear arsenals and the most modern missiles? The defense contract deals are so fabulous that they make multimillionaires out of the commercial firms manufacturing the tanks, missiles, most modern rifles, and weapons that are processed daily in their laboratories. Whom does Washington think it is confusing with such absurd lies devoid of talent? Who is Mrs Oakley scaring when she warns they have the means and will to do whatever is necessary? We are doing what is necessary, and we will continue doing the only thing we can do. We will respond to an empire with the integrity of a small nation; we will respond to the attempt to annul treaties to which the United States is committed—and which were endorsed in the presence of all Latin American presidents—with the firmness that the Torrijos-Carter treaties must be fulfilled and will be fulfilled. That is all we are doing. Meanwhile, people get more hungry, banks do not turn over savings, checks cannot be easily cashed—these are the costs of liberty, the price of independence, and we are paying for it with tremendous devotion and an ability that was not in the books of any Washington analyst. They will do what is necessary, and we will continue our unwavering line. Mrs Oakley and the State Department should stop engaging in the sport of using lies to throw us the direct threat of their military machinery.

Commerce Minister on Possible Wage Reductions

PA2608025088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2005 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni told ACAN-EFE that the government is studying the possibility of "reducing the wages of public employees who earn the highest salaries" as a measure to ease the country's economic crisis.

Rognoni added that the government is discussing this measure with the public employees federation and the presidential advisory commission, which is comprised of cabinet representatives, Panama Defense Forces members, political parties, labor unions, and business associations close to the regime.

Minister Rognoni pointed out that the government "rules out" the possibility of massive public employee dismissals as a measure to ease the crisis and explained that the wage reduction "will affect only those who have the highest salaries."

Independent sources told ACAN-EFE that the wage cutbacks could represent a 25-percent reduction of the payroll.

The Panamanian Government has approximately 150,000 employees, whose salaries range between $200 and $900 a month, not counting overtime or benefits.

As a result of Panama's serious economic crisis, which worsened last March when the U.S. Government imposed economic sanctions, the government has been paying its payroll on a delayed basis.

Independent sources said the government expected to receive approximately $1 billion in revenue this year, but that it will only receive half that amount because of the crisis and the U.S. sanctions.

Minister on Foreign Debt Service Postponement

PA2608033988 Panama City Telemetro Television Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Panama's foreign debt amounts to $3.8 billion, and servicing of the debt has been postponed, according to Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez. He added that Panama enjoys very special relations with the IMF.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] In terms of obtaining credit, our country must meet special conditions because we have to pay some past due debts that have accumulated as a result of the aggression we are suffering. This is the goal of this evaluating mission, that is, to learn to what extent Panama needs help and how this help can be provided.

[Reporter] How much is the foreign debt and how past due is it?

[Gonzalez] The foreign debt amounts to $3.8 billion. For many months now we have postponed paying some of this debt to private banks and international organizations because of the current situation. [end recording]

IRHE Union Leader on Government Actions

PA2608010788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Statement by Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE) workers union, at a news conference on 25 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] We intend to continue fighting so our organization will march ahead, regardless of who is working and who is producing. We have intentions, not words. The Panamanian people no longer believe in words. They believe in facts. They believe in new ideas. We will be able to observe this, incidentally, in the tasks that remain to be done. We are now beginning a phase in which, we have observed, not only our organization but also other organizations are being run by the military.

The government should always be the example in each and every one of its institutions. If the government runs an organization, the government should be the first to provide guarantees and properly pay its debts. We have no political pretense. In our organizations—in our labor organization—we have workers of different beliefs and convictions. Our position has always been to support labor.

We have always said that we do not support any one political sector. We are fighting for a reconstruction with a totally independent character and image, one that will allow us to identify each problem and will allow us to plan future tasks. We cannot hide or keep silent about abnormal situations.

Argentina

Alfonsin, Military Seek Budget, Salary Solution

PY2508034488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0108 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin has met with the Armed Forces chiefs of staff and Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena to discuss the problems raised in the military sector by the failure to approve the national budget. After the meeting, it was officially reported that they also reviewed the policy for military salaries within the framework of the anti-inflationary program.

The meeting was held this afternoon at the Olivos residence. Present at the meeting were Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena; Lieutenant General Jose Dante Caridi, Army chief of staff; Navy Chief of Staff Ramon Antonio Arosa; Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo, Air Force chief of staff; and Brigadier General Teodoro Waldner, joint chief of staff.

After the meeting, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez informed the journalists that the issues discussed included the problems that the failure to approve the national budget is causing for the Armed Forces operations and that some procedures to overcome this difficulty have been implemented.

Lopez said that during the meeting, Alfonsin and the military leaders reviewed the way of making timely payments to the Armed Forces retirees and the policy for military salaries within the framework of the anti-inflationary program, at which time Alfonsin praised the contribution of the Armed Forces to the anti-inflationary program.

Asked about salary percentages reportedly reviewed during the meeting, Lopez said: They surely discussed percentages, but I am not going to discuss the issue.

In response to a question, Lopez said the people are exaggerating when they describe the positions taken by the Defense and Economy Ministries concerning the military budget and salaries as incompatible. He said that whenever complex issues are reviewed, it is always necessary to harmonize criteria and to look into legitimately disparate positions.

In conclusion, Lopez denied that the military leaders had threatened to tender their resignations if their salary claims were not met. He said that this is not the type of relationship the president has mantained with the Armed Forces since the democratic system was implemented in the country.

Issue 'Solved in Principle'

PY2508170488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1126 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (TELAM)—The problem between the Defense and Economy Ministries regarding a wage increase for military members has been solved in principle by President Raul Alfonsin, who proposed a formula that will allow an adjustment of the military salaries close to what they were initially promised.

The wage increase has not been specified, but reliable sources reported that the mechanism adopted—which, nonetheless, does not meet the expectations of all parties—will temporary resolve the problem.

It is known that the agreement establishes that this month the military members will receive the 25-percent wage increase granted to all public administration workers, plus 2 more points; that is, a total of 27 percent.

Another 2-percent increase will be granted in October, an 8-percent increase in November, and another 2 percent in December. In January, the salary situation of the military sector will be studied again.

The agreement has dispelled the possibility of a massive retirement of the four chiefs of staff and of the defense minister himself. A few days ago, Jaunarena had an argument with Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, whom he accused of not complying with what was promised regarding the military's salary adjustment. [passage omitted]

Ministers Score CGT 9 Sep General Strike Call

PY2508192588 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Aug 88 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Yesterday Public Works Minister Rodolfo Terragno considered that the 12-hour general strike called by the General Labour Confederation (CGT) for September 9 "is an abuse because in a democracy such as ours, in which there is open dialogue, strikes must be extreme measures."

In turn, Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli said that "We trust people's maturity and experience not to go along with this strike-happy mentality."

He also reported that "Every time CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini has political interests in staging a strike, the first thing he does is to request an audience with President Raul Alfonsin. This ritual has taken place with every strike and we know it by heart."

Nevertheless, Tonelli reported that the protest measure would not be declared illegal.

On the labor front, the CGT directive council began a round of talks with representatives of political and business sectors to prepare their upcoming protest. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Secretary To Visit E. Europe
PY2508124988 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0048 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (DYN)—Today Susana Ruiz Cerutti, Foreign Ministry international relations secretary, left for Eastern Europe, where she will visit four countries.

According to some reports, she will make further consultations regarding agreements signed with the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Hungary.

Moreover, Raul Alconada Sempe, Foreign Ministry special affairs secretary, is visiting Oslo, Norway, attending a meeting of countries dealing with the "apartheid" policy prevailing in South Africa.

'Right-Wing' Group Detained, Weapons Seized
PY2508185788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1720 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (TELAM)—Today Federal Police Chief Juan Angel Pirker reported that an extreme right-wing group made up of 7 men has been apprehended. He added that a considerable number of weapons was seized.

Pirker reported from his office at the Federal Police headquarters that these individuals owned several machineguns, large-caliber rifles and hand guns, 14 Spanish-type grenades, bulletproof vests, documents, and many books.

Preventive Custody Ordered for 5 Chileans
PY2508235688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1821 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Aug (TELAM)—Today it was officially reported in the court building that Judge Pablo Hernan Quiroga, acting federal judge of San Isidro, ordered the preventive custody of five Chilean militant communists who were arrested for entering the country illegally and for possessing military weapons.

The preventive custody order affects Luis Palma Nunez, Rolando Amador Escobar, Ivan Kraljevic Labra, Maria Cristina Donato Avendano, and Josefina Transito Asenjo.

The first three individuals are charged with forming a group to impose their ideas by force and with possessing military arms, ammunition, and explosives. Their belongings were impounded for up to 20,000 australes each.

The women are charged with the same crimes, except possession of arms. They were also charged with having false documents. Their belongings were impounded for up to 15,000 australes each.

Bolivia

Defense Minister on Possible Cabinet Changes
PY2508223888 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Cochabamba (ANF)—Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo has confirmed that the members of the Armed Forces have received salary increases.

Revollo made this announcement when he released the houses that have been built at the Noncommissioned Officers School, a unit of the 7th Airborne Division based in Cochabamba.

He explained that the salary increases will be paid with Defense Ministry funds; the Treasury Department will not have to provide the funds.

Revollo stated that the problem of budget cuts for the military has been overcome, mainly due to the $5 million in aid provided by the United States. These funds will be used in a number of projects to modernize military units.

Revollo stated that he is not worried about the possible "reshuffling" of the cabinet that has been proposed by the foreign minister because he answers only to the president.

He added: "They can shuffle or reshuffle the cabinet; I occupy this ministry to serve my country at the invitation of Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro."

He added that the comments of those who want a change in the cabinet do not affect him personally because he is an independent within the government.

Government To Negotiate U.S. Drug Fine
PY2508164388 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] At the request of the Lloyd Bolivian Airline (LAB) and the Aeronautics Ministry, the Foreign Ministry will send a mission to the United States to request the lifting of a $1.4-million fine that has been imposed on LAB. The U.S. courts have fined LAB in keeping with the established laws for introducing in U.S. territory 21 kg of cocaine in a cargo shipment.

It has been reported that a group of Bolivian lawyers will leave for the United States within a few hours. Once in the United States, they and a group of U.S. lawyers will study the best possible way to avoid the payment of the fine.

Aeronautics Minister Jaime Zegada has stated that the fine undermines LAB's economy, and in view of this, LAB has requested the Foreign Ministry's mediation in order to enact some bilateral agreements that are in force.

Minister Zegada has confirmed that the LAB plane, which was detained at the Miami airport, was transporting 20 [as heard] kg of cocaine. He added that in view of this, U.S. authorities have fined LAB $1.4 million.

Zegada also said that as a result of negotiations carried out with U.S. authorities, the LAB plane was released after paying 10 percent of the fine, that is, $1,400. [figures as heard] [passage omitted]

Brazil

Armed Forces Staff Seeks Increased Independence

PY2508180388 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Aug 88 p A-6

[By Ricardo Amaral, from the Brasilia branch office]

[Text] Armed Forces Staff (EMFA) senior officers are, during lectures to colleagues of the three Armed Forces branches, making very negative statements about the EMFA's authority and current resources. They stress the need to make the EMFA "more independent," proposing that it be hierarchically superior to the Army, Navy, and Aeronautics Ministries.

The EMFA officers are carefully avoiding using the term defense ministry because the Armed Forces top command repudiates the term. The need for independence is included in an assessment approved on 22 May 1987 by General Paulo Campos Paiva, former EMFA chief.

The document, called the "EMFA Valorization Project," is codenamed "Valemfa" and has been in effect during the terms of Brigadier Paulo Camarinha and Admiral Valbert Lisieux.

The "Valemfa" lists the EMFA's "institutional difficulties" as "professional prejudice, inadequate position [as published], insufficient authority, misuse of funds, and inconsistent administration."

The document adds that "it has been common practice within the EMFA to classify personnel who are not, for various reasons (poor performance, internal policy of the force, etc.), essential for the regular forces."

The "Valemfa" adds: "The EMFA has not been given the 'status' of an advisory organization of the Presidency of the Republic, and personnel serving in this organization are not given the same treatment or the same level of importance as granted to personnel from other advisory organizations" (the SEPLAN [Planning Secretariat], the SNI, and the Civil and Military Households).

The document includes complaints that EMFA proposals "have always been dependent on the unrestricted consensus of the regular forces." It adds that the EMFA must "assume a position of greater liberty and independence as far as advising the Presidency on common military matters, considering a consensus among these forces a as desirable, but not essential, condition." The document also demands that "salary benefits granted to organizations of the Presidency must also be granted to the EMFA."

Briefs

Border Committee With Paraguay

Brazil and Paraguay have created a border committee to discuss problems common to the two countries. The committee was created during a meeting between Brazilian and Paraguayan authorities in Ponta Pora. The Brazilian delegation was headed by Itamaraty Consular Department Chief Marcio Paulo Dias, while the Paraguayan delegation was headed by Ambassador Efrain Centurion. This committee will hold the first meeting on 30 August to discuss the most urgent measures needed to face common problems such as the smuggling of vehicles, agricultural products, and home appliances. [Summary] [*PY2508133988 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Aug 88*]

Chile

Carabineros Deputy Chief on Plebiscite Measures

PY2508203888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Report by Mario Reines from the Carabineros Club]

[Text] Here we are at the Carabineros Club where Carabineros Deputy Chief General Oscar Torres Rodriguez told us that the Carabineros have adopted all the necessary measures for 30 August, which is an important date. He made these statements after a ceremony here to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National Traffic Education Committee.

Gen Torres said the following:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Torres] Which one?

[Reporter] The one you held yesterday.

[Torres] All the measures we could adopt.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Torres] The consultative council listened to the reports of the Carabineros provincial chiefs and to their plans for the upcoming plebiscite.

The council reports were positive because they demonstrate that the situation is normal—fairly normal—and calm in the country. No serious public disturbances have taken place. We expect that the calm will continue in the future; and, on a date yet to be set, we will make a decision, that is, the Chilean people will make a responsible decision.

[Reporter] General, what is that [words indistinct] that was agreed upon and of which you talked?

[Torres] According to the law, the (?Constitution), and other regulations, the Carabineros are in charge of, among other things, maintaining public order and of guaranteeing a normal situation on the plebiscite day.

[Reporter] What do you think of the measure recently adopted by the government?

[Torres] We are very pleased at the measure adopted by his excellency the president of the Republic because it acknowledges that Chile's situation has returned to normal, due in part to the actions of Chilean Carabineros. [end recording]

Security Measures Planned

PY2508134488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] All the Carabineros generals have met to analyze security measures for the upcoming plebiscite. The meeting was presided over by Carabineros Deputy Chief General Oscar Torres. This was revealed in a Carabineros official communique, which states as follows:

A meeting of Carabineros generals began yesterday led by Carabineros Deputy Chief General Oscar Torres, who is replacing General Rodolfo Stange, Carabineros director general and Government Junta member, who is ill with the flu. The Carabineros generals have started a number of meetings to analyze and plan all the police measures that will be adopted for the upcoming plebiscite.

The document is signed by the Carabineros public relations department.

Decrees Lifting Emergency State Not Published

PY2508190388 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry decrees ending the states of exception that have been in force for the last 15 years were not published in the official newspaper today. It is expected that these decrees will be included in tomorrow's issue of the official newspaper.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry informed all accredited embassies in foreign countries of the government's decision. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Carlos Buchi said the measure is an internal matter of the Interior Ministry, but as is customary with all important government decisions, Chilean Embassies in other countries have been informed of the decision. Buchi believes that the end of the states of exception will be a satisfactory answer to the concern some countries have expressed on the matter. Buchi added that during the days before and after the plebiscite, the diplomatic personnel accredited to foreign governments will remain in their posts.

Survey: No Vote Leads by 9.8 Percent

PY2508122588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1944 GMT 24 Aug 88

[All figures as received]

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 24 Aug (EFE)—The last survey conducted by the Center of Contemporary Studies (CERC) reveals that the number of people who support the no vote is 9.8 percent larger than the number of those who support the yes vote.

Carlos Huneeus, a doctor of political science and a Christian Humanist Academy researcher directed the survey, the results of which were reported today. Huneeus said that 98.2 percent of country's population is represented by these figures.

The poll, conducted among 2,400 people, has a margin of error of 2.94 percent.

If the plebiscite were to be held on 28 August, 40.6 percent of the people would vote no, 30.8 percent would vote yes, 11 percent would be undecided, and 16.1 percent would cast blank ballots.

Huneeus said: "We are not predicting the result of the plebiscite because during the campaign the government can still resort to many types of propaganda to advertise its own position, but in a clean and transparent election, Pinochet will have to face a very difficult challenge."

Huneeus stressed the high number of Chileans (approximately 29.5 percent) do not believe that the vote will be secret, and (about 38.9 percent) think that "there will be fraud or tricks." He added that "a systematic campaign to reduce the high percentage of uncertainty should be carried out in the days preceding the plebiscite."

Among the conclusions of the poll, it was mentioned that "it has been confirmed that a vast majority of Chileans want to participate in the plebiscite, even amid difficulties, while the majority think that television newscasts benefit the government and that this impairs the principle of impartial elections."

Most of those polled said that "they do not fear a no vote victory." Surveyors attached great importance to this answer.

The Constitution promulgated by Pinochet in 1981 [as received] sets forth that in 1988 the Armed Forces will submit the name of the person they will choose for

president of the Republic for the 1989-97 term to a plebiscite. Direct elections will be called for in 1990 only if the majority rejects the plebiscite candidate.

The Government Junta, of which Pinochet is a member, and the Carabineros director should unanimously designate the candidate on 30 August. According to the Constitution, the plebiscite will take place in October.

Denise Pascal Allende Returns Illegally
PY2608031688 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Denise Pascal Allende, niece of former President Salvador Allende, has returned to Chile without authorization after almost 15 years.

She entered the country through the fourth region yesterday, and today she appeared before the president of the Appellate Court at 1600. Upon leaving the court she read a statement to the press saying that after making so many requests to return, she could no longer live in exile.

[Begin recording] [Pascal Allende] I could not longer live waiting for a call, or a letter, or a brief visit from my family. That is not the way to live. Living with my husband and children is a right no one can deny. As a Chilean woman I have dignity. I have the spirit of a mother and wife who has the right to live in Chile, and I hope to be as happy as I used to be here.

[Reporter] Can you tell us [words indistinct] from the Appellate Court president what your situation is?

[Pascal Allende] He received me very cordially, and I believe [words indistinct] what the situation is. I am now going home to be with my family [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Denise Pascal Allende is the daughter of Socialist Party leader Laura Allende, who committed suicide in Havana. She left the court building with her two children and her husband (Jorge Charuiz), who returned to Chile 5 years ago.

Denise Pascal Allende was not arrested, and there were no policemen near the court building. She left in a private car without any problems. Defense Lawyer Roberto Garreton of the Vicariate of Solidarity explained that no petition for writ of amparo was submitted, and that only a letter was written explaining Pascal Allende's return. Garreton added that now it is up to the government to decide.

National Party Expels 3 Leaders for Violations
PY2608005388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The Supreme Tribunal of the National Party has officially announced the resolution expelling Vice Presidents Herman Riesco and Juan King, as well as Julia Paulina Correa, a youth party department leader.

The decision was announced to the press a few minutes ago at the eastern headquarters of the National Party through lawyer Agustin Acuna, the party's president, who stated that there was one vote against the resolution, that of Victor Carmine.

The resolution handed down by the Supreme Tribunal through the party's president states that the three party leaders were expelled because at no time did they express the desire to correct their organizational deficiencies or their actions which, according to the Supreme Tribunal, violated the party's statutes. [passage omitted]

PDC Youth Leader Indicted, Released on Bail
PY2608015488 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The military court upheld the indictment of Felipe Sandoval, youth sector president of the Christian Democratic Party, who was tried for offending Carabineros. The military court also decided to release Sandoval on bail. He was arrested on 17 August. The court decision was 3 to 1.

Also today, Military Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva met with Supreme Court President Luis Maldonado for 30 minutes to discuss several issues related to cases under Torres' jurisdiction, such as the attack on General Pinochet and the kidnapping of Colonel Carreno.

It was learned that Torres officially submitted a request for the extradition of three Chileans arrested near Buenos Aires, who are reportedly linked to the kidnapping of Col Carreno. The Supreme Court must now process that request.

Journalists' 1-Hour Strike 'Complete Success'
PY2508205288 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jaime Moreno Naval, national president of the Journalist's Association of Chile, said the 1-hour strike by journalists from 1100 to 1200 today was a complete success. Moreno Naval was hoarse but nevertheless spoke to a group of approximately 100 journalists who gathered after marching toward La Moneda Palace. Moreno Naval said: Considering our situation today we can assure you that the movement is a success because we closed ranks with the other regions of the country and because we have the means of communications to prove

it. At 1100 the journalists marched silently and peacefully toward La Moneda Palace. Jaime Moreno Naval handed a letter addressed to Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez to the government public relations office.

The letter states that the government has still to answer their petition to drop all lawsuits against journalists and communications media. The letter was read despite the harassment of Carabineros:

[Begin speaker recording] You have not answered us. We then infer that you do not wish to hear the just demands of Chilean journalists [words indistinct]. Even though you do not answer, we cannot remain silent. The country must know that the harassment of journalists has continued even after we sent you the first letter; some have even been sent to jail. There are more journalists on trial today than a month ago. Are we to understand that this is your answer to our urgent call? [end recording]

The letter says that Chilean journalists will not relent in their pursuit of full freedom of expression, which is essential for the plebiscite.

[Begin speaker recording] We believe that Chileans must be fully informed so that their decisions can be made after careful examination of the facts, and not be subject to manipulation. We will not be accomplices in a process of disinformation or work in any way against the well-informed vote. The harassment of journalists strengthens our convictions, and we will continue loyally and courageously to represent the way our members feel. We must again insist: No more trials; no more citations; no more arrests; and no more night confinements. [end recording]

The letter is signed by Secretary General Guillermo Torres and Jaime Moreno Naval, president. [passage omitted]

Opposition Magazine Director Detained

PY2508205488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago, 25 Aug (EFE)—Today Francisco Herreros, director of the opposition magazine CAUCE, was taken from his house by unidentified armed men who claimed to have an arrest warrant issued against him by a Santiago military prosecutor.

This report was released to the local press by Herreros' wife, who said the alleged agents, who wore white ribbons on their arms, jumped the fence around the house garden, detained Herreros, and took him to a car waiting on the street.

Herreros has been summoned by a military prosecutor in a trial he is facing for allegedly offending the Armed Forces.

The magazine director's wife added that, on entering the house, the agents showed a warrant authorizing a raid on the house, but no raid took place because no one offered any resistance.

So far no one knows the whereabouts of the magazine director. Herreros' detention took place 2 hours before the beginning of the 1-hour strike called by Chilean reporters to protest the trials of 30 professionals in various military courts.

Colombia

Government To Assume Control of Interest Rates

PA2508130788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Colombian Government has decided to control the financial system's interest rates, which means that the government will temporarily decide how much interest banks should charge for their loans and what interest rates should be offered for bank deposits.

The government has also reduced the so-called banking reserves [encaje bancario] so banks now have more resources.

Barco Receives South Korean Assembly Speaker

SK2508011188 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Kim Chae-son, who is on an official visit to Latin America, paid a courtesy call on President Virgilio Barco Tuesday.

During the 1-hour and 10-minute meeting, the two leaders exchanged a broad range of opinions on ways to promote friendly relations, particularly in economic areas.

Kim expressed gratitude for the Colombian Government's cooperation and support for the Seoul Olympic Games and Bogota's participation in a special United Nation's motion congratulating the Republic of Korea on the 40th anniversary of its inauguration.

"On the occasion of the historic Seoul Olympic Games, I wish your Olympic team great success in raising your national flag to the Seoul sky," said Kim.

President Barco said that Korea and Colombia fought side by side during the Korean War and expressed hope that their friendly relations would continue.

He showed Kim the Colombian Government's ambitious economic development plan, and requested Korea's help in implementing it.

"We need Korea's cooperation and active participation in development projects," said President Barco.

He then expressed deep gratitutde to the Korean Government for medical care extended to him when he visited Korea last year. "I am quite all right now," said President Barco, who underwent surgery while on an official visit there last year.

Later in the day, Kim visited the Colombian house of representatives and senate and met with Franciso Jose Jattin, president of the lower house and Ancizar Lopez, president of the upper house.

Kim was awarded the Grand Cross, the highest decoration accorded by the Colombian Government.

Kim presented a traditional Korean mask and wall decoration set to President Barco, while Olympic souvenir sets were sent to the Colombian house of representatives and senate presidents.

12 Killed, 23 Missing in EPL Attack on Post

PA2508184488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] During an attack last night on the military post in Saisa Corregimiento at the Cordoba-Antioquia border, the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] killed nine soldiers and two policemen.

According to the Defense Ministry, the attack, which involved a large guerrilla column, lasted 5 hours. 4 policemen and 4 military men were wounded.

The town is presently isolated. The Uraba militarty chief traveled to the area with (Boltiferos) battalion reinforcements.

Here is a last-minute report.

These are the official figures of the Defense Ministry regarding a subversive EPL attack yesterday on Saisa Corregimiento, Cordoba: 23 missing soldiers, 12 dead, and 8 wounded.

Further on Attack

PA2608020088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0004 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Report by Einer Castaneda]

[Text] Close to 300 guerrillas of the Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board attacked Saisa, in Tierra Alta, Cordoba Department. It has been confirmed that 12 Army personnel, 9 guerrillas, and 11 or 12 peasants were killed. The total number of casualties inflicted on the Army and the guerrillas is feared to have reached 40 following subsequent clashes. We now have a report by Einer Castaneda.

[Begin Castaneda recording] According to unofficial reports, the guerrilla coordinating board arrived at (El Caserio), located in the mountains, 30 km from Carepa, Antioquia Department. Guerillas took over the military base, which was held by 36 soldiers, of whom 10 were killed, 12 were wounded, and the remainder are missing. 2 policemen were also killed in the attack. 4 others were wounded and 10 more are reported missing. An early report indicates the rebels sustained at least 15 casualties.

Members of the guerrilla Coordinating Board handed out flyers last night in which they rejected the military command in Uraba and supported the attack on the military bases. When we tried to learn more about the situation in the area, military commander General Arias Cabrales refused to comment and absolutely refused to allow us to film anything. 12 peasants were killed in the clash and an unknown number were wounded. [end recording]

Peru

Strikers Occupy French Embassy; Police Remove

PY2608023988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0153 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Lima, 25 Aug (TELAM-DPA)—Today some 150 striking Peruvian workers occupied the French Embassy in Lima and held hostage an undetermined number of diplomats and employees. By order of a judge, dozens of policemen went to the embassy later and proceeded to dislodge the workers.

Administrative workers of state-owned universities said they decided to occupy the embassy to call the government's attention to their wage demands.

The French diplomats and employees were released by the police without injuries.

Leaders of the university workers said the police arrested some of those who occupied the embassy.

Suriname

Rebels Capture Airstrip Near Brazilian Border

FL2608014788 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Surinamese rebels have captured an unguarded jungle airstrip near the Brazilian border. [Name indistinct] reports the rebels have not announced what they plan to do with it.

[Begin speaker recording] Suriname's Army has [words indistinct] in which they tried to retake the jungle air base which (?stands) in an Amerindian village some 50 km south of Paramaribo. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, which is responsible for aviation, says (?the air base) was seized by 25 rebels early Tuesday morning. There were no reports of casualties or any captured aircrafts, but a Dutchman who was pruning plants in the area has been reported missing by his wife. [passage omitted including indistinct portion] [end recording]